Department of State (5353) INCOMING

2. USSR-JAPAN: PROPOSED SECURITY ARRANGEMENT.

PRESS REPORTS FROM TOKYO STATE THE SOVIETS, IN A LETTER TO JAPAN'S DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY LAST MONTH, SAY THE USSR IS READY TO CONSIDER UNSPECTIED SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH JAPAN IF TOKYO CONTINUES TO BAN THE PRODUCTION OR INTRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO JAPAN. THE LETTER BLAMES THE US FOR THE CURRENT ARMS RACE AND EMPHASIZES THE USSR WILL NOT DISARM UNILATERALLY. SIMILAR LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO MEMBER PARTIES OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY.

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COMMENT: //MOSCOW PRESUMABLY IS OFFERING A REVISED VERSION OF THE "NONNUCLEAR" PACT THAT BREZHNEV FIRST PROPOSED LAST MARCH. PRIME MINISTER NAKASONE ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL REJECT THE PROPOSAL AS ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE US AND JAPAN, BUT HE MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE A PERSUASIVE RATIONALE TO THE MANY JAPANESE WHO ARE OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. RECENT COMMENTS BY SOVIET SUGGEST THE USSR DOES NOT EXPECT AN IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS ANY TIME SOON. //

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